



The New Jersey Cultural Trust

NEWS

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The New Jersey Cultural Trust Convenes Annual Meeting Launches Inaugural Grant Program

The New Jersey Cultural Trust held its Annual Meeting today at the State House in Trenton. It took action to initiate the Trust's inaugural grant program, approved the designation of 23 organizations as "qualified," and elected officers for the year.

According to The New Jersey Cultural Trust Co-Chair, Judi Dawkins, "With the FY'04 state appropriation of \$500,000, the Cultural Trust Fund has exceeded the \$20 million threshold of contributed income in the Fund allowing the Board to distribute the interest earnings as grants to qualified arts, history and humanities organizations. This is an exciting milestone for the Trust and will greatly benefit the non-profit cultural community of New Jersey."

The Cultural Trust Fund, with the additional \$500,000, now stands at \$20,139,000 in contributed dollars. The board approved the distribution of \$600,000 of the interest earned to date for the new grant program.

The New Jersey Cultural Trust was created in 2000 to build a permanent, stable and additional source of funding to support qualified private non-profit arts, history and humanities organizations. The earnings of the Fund may be given in grants to build endowments, finance important capital projects and provide support for institutional and financial stabilization. Grants will be based on recommendations

from the programs administered by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the New Jersey Historic Trust to The New Jersey Cultural Trust Board.

In this pilot year, the State Council on the Arts and the Historical Commission are developing a program that focuses on financial stabilization. The Historic Trust will conduct a program to support capital projects for qualified history and humanities organizations. It is expected that grant applications will be available in the fall with application deadlines in mid-December. Grants may be awarded in early March, 2004.

Dawkins said, “After only two years of operation, we can now begin to demonstrate how the Trust will, in a positive way, strengthen the financial underpinnings of the cultural industry in New Jersey and provide support for purposes currently not provided through other state agencies. We look forward to the inauguration of the grants program.”

Organizations must be designated “qualified” by the Cultural Trust in order to be eligible to participate in funding programs. They may apply on an on-going basis for such designation under the rules of the Trust. To be designated as “qualified,” an organization must be a New Jersey nonprofit arts, history or humanities organization that has been operating for at least the last four years and submit the appropriate financial information. The board approved 23 applications at the annual meeting. This action brings the total number of qualified organizations to 98.

In other action, the Board elected Judi Dawkins of Rumson and Josh Weston of Montclair to serve as Co-Chairs; Carol Cronheim of Lambertville to serve as Vice-chair; and Esther Silver-Parker of Denville to serve as Secretary.

Finally, the Board heard reports from the Council on the Arts, the Historical Commission and the Historic Trust regarding the development and status of the grant programs.

The New Jersey Cultural Trust is a division of the Department of State. The mission of the Trust is to ensure a stable and healthy cultural industry in New Jersey that is sustainable under fluctuating economic conditions. The Trust Fund is a permanent, interest-generating fund that serves as an additional source of revenue to nonprofit arts, history, and humanities organizations for specific purposes that are crucial to ensuring fiscal and operational health, stability and durability. The New Jersey Cultural Trust was established by P.L. 2000, c: 76 which is now N.J.S.A. 52:16A-72 et seq. and was signed into law on July 25, 2000.

Its fifteen member board includes 6 members appointed by the Governor to 5-year terms, 5 ex-officio members including the New Jersey State Treasurer, the New Jersey Secretary of State, and the Chairs of the NJ State Council on the Arts, the NJ Historical Commission and the NJ Historical Commission, and 4 members selected by the Legislature. For more information, contact The New Jersey Cultural Trust office at 609-984-6767.

Organizations designated as “ Qualified” at the Annual Meeting include:

South Jersey Cultural Alliance, Linwood
Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown
Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cape May
The East Lynne Company, Cape May
Millville Army Air Field Museum, Millville
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair
Montclair Historical Society, Montclair
Newark School of the Arts, Newark
Pushcart Players, Verona
Theater Under the Stars, West Orange
Historical and Educational Lodge-Hall Preservatory (HELP Inc.), Swedesboro
Boheme Opera Company, Trenton
Foundation for New Jersey Public Broadcasting, Trenton
Young Audiences of New Jersey, Princeton
Middlesex County Regional Council for the Arts, New Brunswick
New Jersey Museum of Agriculture, North Brunswick
New Jersey Repertory Company, Long Branch
Trustees of the Morristown Green, Morristown
Somerset Art Association, Bedminster
The Meadows Foundation, Somerset
The Heritage Trail Association, Bound Brook
New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit
New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, Westfield